



14 NOV 2006

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

William P. Berridge
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320

Dear Mr. Berridge:

This is in response to your request received 12 October 2006 inquiring about the status of the filing receipt and notice of acceptance in U.S. national stage application serial number 10/579,232. Please be notified that the Designated/Elected Office currently has a backlog of about eight months in processing 371 application papers and will issue an Office action in due course. All further inquiries about the status of this application eight months after the filing of the 371 papers may be addressed to Catherine Short, Manager of the U.S. Designated/Elected Office at (703) 308-9140, extension 220 or to Terry Johnson-Vessels, Supervisor of Team I, at telephone number (703) 308-9140, extension 221.

Sincerely,

Nguyen Ngoc-Ho
Paralegal Specialist
PCT Legal Office

Tel: (571) 272-3290